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the Soviets, like everyone else, watch them closely.

One of the British correspondents expelled believed it was his own government's righteous indignation that sparked the stern Soviet reaction.

MARK FRANKLAND: I think the Soviet point of view would be, is that look, there is always espionage conducted by both countries.

RODGERS: The hand of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is seen in the British expulsions from Moscow, the largest since the end of World War II. And the consensus is Gorbachev is telling the West not to fool around with the Russians.

But another British journalist to be expelled believes Gorbachev made a mistake and set back chances for improved Anglo-Soviet relations.

DENIS BLEWETT: I think the Russians overreacted. Yeah.

RODGERS: This maze of aeriels atop the American Embassy in Moscow suggests how much spying everyone does here. Every day more than 200 Russians report to work inside the U.S. Embassy, some as electricians, mechanics and drivers, others who work as clerks; and at least some are presumed to be spies.

Congress recently voted to replace the Russians working here with more Americans. But the Soviets can frustrate that by simply denying housing to the hundreds of Americans that would be needed to replace the Russians.

Besides, in this world of spies, all those new Americans would simply become fresh targets for the KGB to compromise.

Soviet Technology Theft

JENNINGS: Well, the United

States is about to weigh in again on how much the Soviets get away with. At the heart of the matter here in Washington are thousands and thousands of technical documents.

ABC's Dennis Trout is at the Pentagon.

DENNIS TROUT: America's Sidewinder, a top-drawer air-to-air missile. So good, the Soviets made a virtual carbon copy when they put together their Atoll weapon. U.S. officials say that's a good example of Moscow's technology theft from the West, which saves billions for the Soviet in development costs and leaves the non-communist world increasingly vulnerable.

[REDACTED] The documents describe the Soviet organization charged with gathering technical intelligence called the Military-Industrial Commission, or VPK. Its agents or collection departments: the Foreign Trade Ministry, the KGB, the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and others. Its methods for obtaining technical data range from legally attending trade shows to outright theft.

Experts say the information obtained has allowed the Soviets to make quick and cheap improvements on such fighter aircraft as the SU-25, -27, and the MIG-29.

When the Mitterand government got details of the program in 1983, it quickly expelled 47 Soviets.

The Reagan Administration's response: a louder drumbeat of publicity, starting with a full-blown press conference by Defense Secretary Caspar